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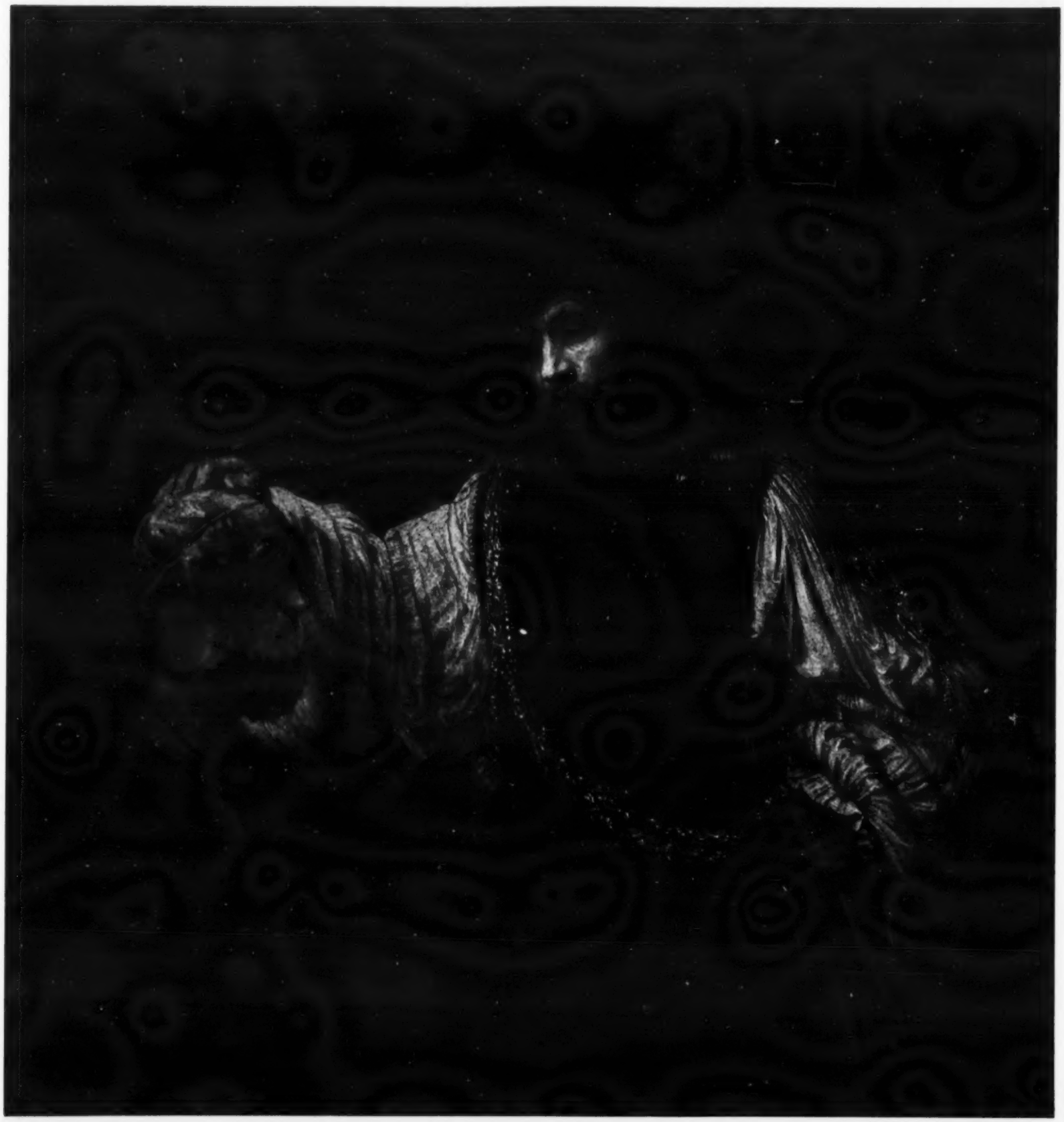
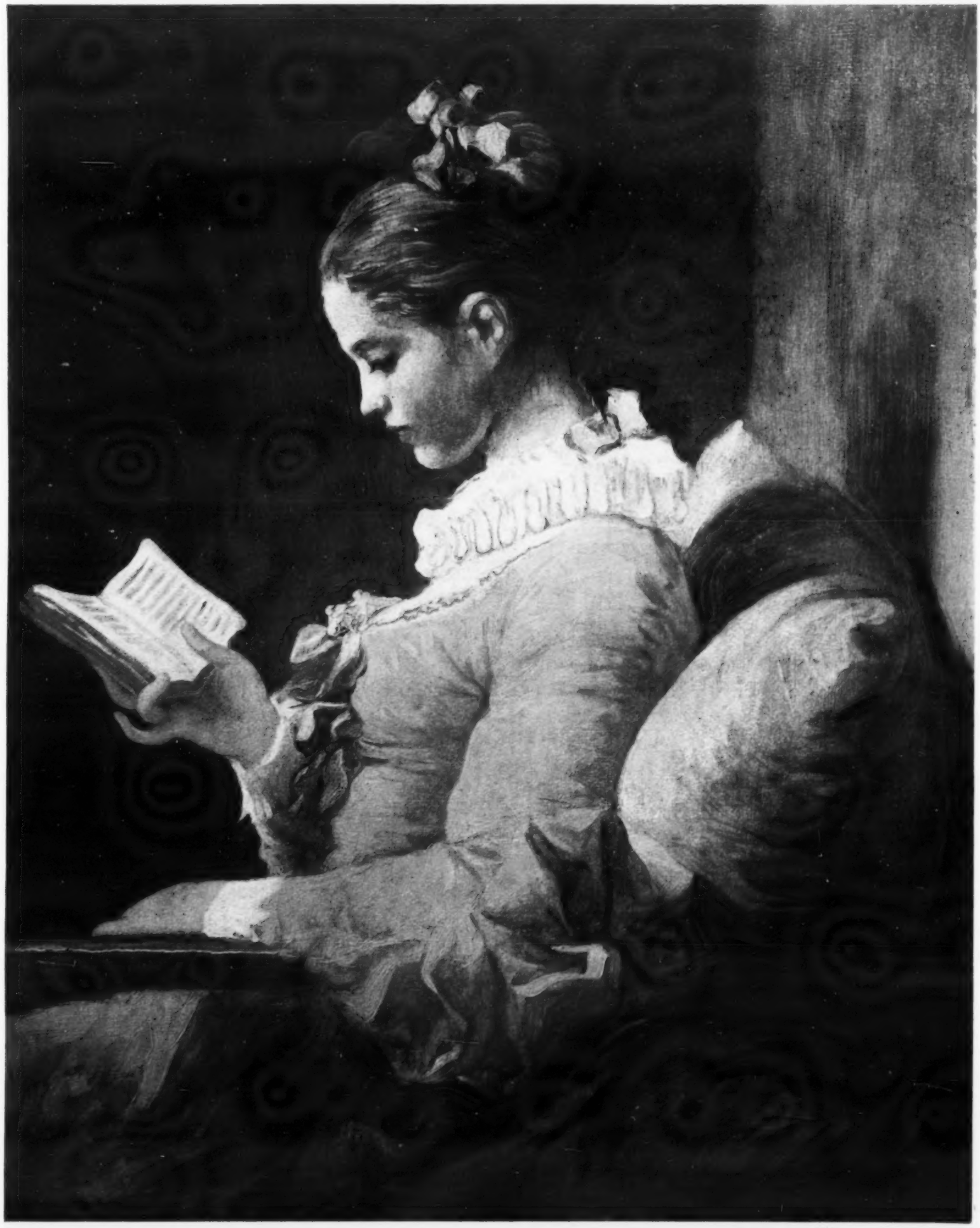


ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT PICTURES: REMBRANDT'S "ARISTOTLE"—THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE GREAT PICTURE SALE HELD IN NEW YORK ON NOVEMBER 15.

This picture, "Aristotle contemplating the bust of Homer," by Rembrandt van Rijn (*c.* 1606-1669), was thought to be one of the last truly great European paintings likely to come up for sale, and it was hardly surprising that its appearance at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, New York, should have created speculation and excitement throughout the art world. The painting was in England, in the collection of Lord Brownlow, in the 19th century. From here it joined the Rodolphe Kann collection in Paris, and then early this century passed into American hands through Duveen Brothers. Alfred Erickson bought it in 1928, after the painting had passed back into Duveen Brothers' hands from the Huntington collection. Erickson's widow died this spring. Rembrandt painted it on commission for a Sicilian nobleman, Marchese Ruffo, in 1653. It was one of several mythological works which Rembrandt painted for him. The enchanting Fragonard of a girl reading a book, also in colour in this issue, is another superb painting from the Erickson Sale. (55½ by 53½ ins.)



AN ENCHANTING STUDY IN FEMININITY: FRAGONARD'S "*LA LISEUSE*," WHICH WAS ONE OF THE GREAT PAINTINGS UP FOR AUCTION IN THE ERICKSON COLLECTION.

Among the great collection of paintings formed by the late Alfred Erickson, one of the pioneers of modern advertising whose widow died earlier this year, was this graceful and intimate study of a young girl reading, by Jean Honoré Fragonard (1732-1806). To anyone who knows Fragonard only as the flippant pupil of Boucher, specialising in exquisite little romances among the swings and arbours of classical gardens, the simplicity and tenderness of such a painting must come as a surprise, perhaps a revelation. Here is a painter who could capture without undue sentimentality the charm and "prettiness" of young womanhood. The colouring is fresh and bold—the rich red of the couch in shadow, and the streaks of green in the girl's hair. Twenty-five pictures from the Erickson collection were being sold at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, New York. (32 by 25 ins.)